

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /065 W  
-----101754Z 109093 /43

R 101711Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6361  
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04308

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ECIN, PFOR, EEC, PO, GW  
SUBJECT: SOARES VISIT TO FRG: DISCUSSIONS ON  
PORTUGUESE ACCESSION TO THE COMMUNITY

REF: BONN 4171 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. IN HIS BRIEF VISIT TO BONN ON MARCH 8,  
PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER SOARES SUCCEEDED IN  
OBTAINING A COMMITMENT FROM CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT THAT THE

FRG WOULD GIVE POLITICAL SUPPORT TO PORTUGAL'S REQUEST  
TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY. THE TWO LEADERS DISCUSSED  
POSSIBLE MODALITIES AND TIMING FOR WHAT THEY FORESAW  
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AS A LONG TRANSITION PERIOD, BUT DID NOT REACH SPECIFIC  
CONCLUSIONS. IN FRG VIEW, THE PORTUGUESE ACCESSION  
NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CLOSELY INTERTWINED WITH THOSE OF  
SPAIN. END SUMMARY.

2. SOARES MET WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, FOREIGN MINISTER  
GENSCHER, AND PRESIDENT SCHEEL. BY FAR THE MOST

IMPORTANT TALKS WERE WITH THE CHANCELLOR, WHO PROVIDED THE ASSURANCES OF POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE ACCESSION WHICH SOARES REQUESTED. A FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE (DR. TRUMPF) CONFIRMED THAT COMMENTS BY SCHMIDT AND SOARES IN PRESS CONFERENCE (SEE REFTEL) ACCURATELY REFLECTED THE TENOR OF THEIR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS.

3. ACCORDING TO TRUMPF, SOARES CONFIRMED THAT PORTUGAL WILL FORWARD ITS APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP AT THE END OF MARCH, SO THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL CAN TAKE IT UP ON APRIL 5. THE COUNCIL WOULD THEN REQUEST THE EC COMMISSION TO REVIEW THE PORTUGUESE APPLICATION, A PROCESS WHICH WOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY 8 MONTHS.

4. THEREAFTER THE SCENARIO BECOMES MUCH MORE INDEFINITE. TRUMPF INDICATED THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT IN BRUSSELS AND IN THE MEMBER STATES. ONE SCHOOL FAVORS THE MODEL USED FOR UK, IRISH AND DANISH ACCESSION, BUT WITH A LONGER TRANSITION PERIOD. A SECOND SCHOOL FAVORS SEVERAL STAGES OF ACCESSION TO FULL MEMBERSHIP, EACH STAGE INVOLVING AN INCREASE IN RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.

5. IN THEIR PRESS CONFERENCE, SCHMIDT REFERRED TO A LONG TRANSITION PERIOD HAVING A MAGNITUDE OF TEN YEARS, BUT TRUMPF INDICATED THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER HE HAD IN MIND A TEN-YEAR PERIOD PRIOR TO PORTUGUESE ACCESSION OR A TEN-YEAR PERIOD OF

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TRANSITION FOLLOWING PORTUGUESE ACCESSION. TRUMPF DOUBTED THAT THIS SCENARIO WILL BE CLARIFIED BEFORE NEXT SPRING, WHEN THE SPANISH REQUEST FOR ACCESSION

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 04308

IS RECEIVED. HE WAS QUITE CERTAIN THAT THE COMMUNITY  
WOULD WANT TO INTER-LINK CLOSELY THE ACCESSION  
NEGOTIATIONS WITH BOTH IBERIAN STATES.

6. THE FONOFF PORTUGUESE OFFICE DIRECTOR (HEIBACH)  
UNDERLINED THE FRG'S POLITICAL DECISION TO SUPPORT  
PORTUGAL'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP WHICH OVERRODE  
THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC OBJECTIONS TO PORTUGUESE MEMBER-  
SHIP. ON THE QUESTION OF THE TEN-YEAR TRANSITION  
PERIOD, HEIBACH TOO INDICATED IT HAD NOT BEEN DECIDED  
WHEN THE PROBATIONARY TIME SHOULD BEGIN TO RUN. HE  
THOUGHT THE STUDY OF PORTUGAL'S APPLICATION BY THE  
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COMMISSION WOULD TAKE UNTIL L978 AND WOULD BE FOLLOWED  
BY ABOUT TWO YEARS OF DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS PRIOR TO  
ENTRY. HEIBACH SAID IT WAS THE FRENCH WHO HAD ALWAYS  
INSISTED THAT A STATE WAS NOT ENTITLED TO THE FULL  
BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP UNTIL IT COULD DISCHARGE ITS  
COMPLETE OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE TREATY OF ROME.

7. HEIBACH TOLD US THE DISCUSSIONS WITH SCHMIDT AND  
GENSCHER WERE PRIVATE AND THAT THE SEVEN-MAN PORTUGUESE  
DELEGATION WAS FORCED TO WAIT IN THE ANTECHAMBER. AS A  
RESULT, INFORMATION ON THE DISCUSSIONS WAS ONLY SECOND-  
HAND. BESIDES EC MEMBERSHIP, THE OTHER PRINCIPAL  
THEME WAS THE PROSPECTIVE CONSORTIUM LOAN TO PORTUGAL.

HEIBACH SAID THAT THE SUBJECTS OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION,  
EXPANSION OF PORTUGAL'S STEEL INDUSTRY, AND GERMAN  
SUPPORT FOR THE PORTUGUESE NATO BRIGADE WERE ALSO  
RAISED. HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE  
US WITH ANY DETAILS AT THIS TIME.  
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## Message Attributes

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